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# Wall blasts Ottawa after immigrant program scrapped

**Federal budget casualty.** 'It works very well' in Saskatchewan, premier says of Immigrant Investor Program cut for all provinces except Que.

Premier Brad Wall is frustrated that the federal government is scrapping the Immigrant Investor Program for Saskatchewan and all other provinces, except Quebec.

Wall said on Wednesday that he knows Ottawa had concerns about whether the program was functioning properly.

But the premier said it's been successful in Saskatchewan and has attracted more than $160 million in investments used to build homes during a housing shortage.

"For Pete's sake," Wall told reporters in Regina. "I understand they have to make decisions, if they don't think programs are being used correctly. I get that. We're doing the same thing. We're having budget finalization right now.

"But in order to come to that conclusion, you need to find out what's going on in places like Saskatchewan, before you decide to cut a program based on the fact that you don't think it's working. And had they done that, I think they would see that it works very well here. We're being responsible with the dollars and with the principles of the program and now we want to be treated the same as the province of Quebec."

The program offered permanent resident visas to investors with business experience, a net worth of at least $1.6 million and an investment of $800,000. But it had come under scrutiny for allowing people to essentially buy their way into Canada.

The federal government put a moratorium on the program in 2012, and talked about revamping it. It was cancelled in Tuesday's federal budget.

Federal Immigration Minister Chris Alexander said in a news release that the program provided limited economic benefit to Canada. He said the government will replace it with other pilot programs that ensure immigrants who come to Canada "deliver meaningful benefits" to the economy.

Quebec's immigrant investor program operates separately from the rest of the country and remains in effect.

That's what irks Wall.

The premier said it's not acceptable for Ottawa to take one set of actions for the rest of Canada and a separate one for Quebec.

"Frankly, if we could get the same deal as Quebec, we would pursue it and ... I think we'll ask for that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## STORM TROOPER

**Alex Loader faces the elements near the intersection of 5th Avenue North and 22 Street East in Saskatoon on Wednesday afternoon. Residents across the city were dealing with a dump of snow as a winter storm rolled through southeast Saskatchewan. Story, page 2.** MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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NEWS 1

# Southern, central Saskatchewan slammed by sudden snowstorm

**'Alberta clipper'.** 60-70 km/h winds had a bigger impact than the expected 10-15 cm of snow, meteorologist says

ROSS ROMANIUK
Metro in Regina

Commuters bundle up in the cold at the downtown Saskatoon Transit bus terminal. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

The warning came on Wednesday, and the weather wallop wasn't far behind.

Southern and central Saskatchewan have found out the hard way that heavy snow and blustery conditions are far from finished this winter, as a fast-moving storm slammed the province on its way in from the west.

The "Alberta clipper" was expected to dump 10 to 15 centimetres across the region after it struck around mid-day.

"The bigger impact, though, right now is from the wind," Chris Scott, chief meteorologist with the Weather Network, told Metro from Oakville, Ont., as the gusts of 60 to 70 km/h whipped the snow onto streets and highways across what he called "the central and southern stripe" of Saskatchewan.

"That would take you from almost the Alberta border, west of Saskatoon ... along and south of the Yellowhead in central Saskatchewan, then right down toward the Moosomin area in the southeast. That would include the city of Regina."

Named in part after high-speed clipper ships, the storm is the kind that tapers off almost as fast as it blows in.

The bad news, seen on Wednesday, is that its precipitation and wind wreak havoc while they're around.

RCMP issued highway advisories as collisions, including a six-vehicle pileup causing several injuries on the Trans-Canada west of Regina, resulted from poor visibility.

Regina police urged motorists to "reconsider travel plans" during the storm, while Saskatoon municipal officials told the public that they're ready for what comes.

"We have crews ready. They are out in the field right now on the streets with the sanding and salting crews, and grader crews are ready to go as soon as we get accumulations to the point where we can make some effective use of those," said Pat Hyde, Saskatoon's public works director.

"We also have contractor crews that are ready to roll. We have those already lined up for winter events and snowstorms such as this." WITH FILES FROM JACOB MORGAN/METRO

# Ministers to meet with companies about grain backlog

Premier Brad Wall has appointed a delegation to meet with grain companies in the hopes of clearing up a grain backlog.

Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart, Economy Minister Bill Boyd, Highways and Infrastructure Minister Don McMorris and MLA Scott Moe are to meet with the companies this week.

They plan to talk about the challenges the businesses face in moving grain and come up with potential solutions.

**Quoted**

**"The delays in moving grain have led to lower prices for our producers at the farmgate and are harming our reputation as a reliable supplier of agriculture products throughout the world."**
Premier Brad Wall

There will also be meetings with rail companies to talk about measures to clear up the backlog, including adding more crews, cars and locomotive capacity.

The province says if the situation doesn't improve, it will recommend potential legislative action to ensure stakeholders are held accountable and encourage the movement of grain.

Farmers have been frustrated about a huge backlog of wheat and other crops building up outside jammed grain elevators.

The backlog stems, in part, from problems moving a record harvest and from winter weather.

The Saskatchewan Agriculture department has said the grain backlog could result in financial damages "calculated in the billions of dollars."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Reported harassment**

## CEO of Regina aboriginal games steps down

The chief executive officer of the Regina North American Indigenous Games has stepped down pending an investigation into allegations of harassment against him.

The games' board of directors said in a news release late Tuesday that the complaints were filed with its human resources committee early this month.

The nature of the allegations against CEO Glen Pratt have not been disclosed.

The board said Pratt is on leave with pay until the investigation is complete.

The games are set for July 20 to July 27 in Regina, injecting about $32 million into the local economy.

"The board acknowledges the seriousness of the complaints and wants to assure its partners, funders, stakeholders, staff and the public that the matter is being thoroughly investigated by an independent firm that specializes in human resource related matters," said the board's release.
THE CANADIAN PRESS/MBC

**Search for missing man**

## Rescuer dies, another in critical condition

A member of a rescue team has died and another is in critical condition following a search for a missing man near the Saskatchewan-Manitoba boundary.

RCMP say the two men were part of the Lac Brochet Search and Rescue group that went out looking for the missing person on Sunday.

The missing man was found, but RCMP say the rescuers didn't return.

The pair were found on Tuesday afternoon by Wollaston Lake RCMP officers.

Mounties say a 47-year-old man is dead and a 40-year-old man is in critical condition at a Winnipeg hospital.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Two real estate agents sell Riversdale house in 24 hours

**'It set a new standard for the area.'** The house is a fixer-upper built in the early 20th century, located right across from the market

JACOB MORGAN
jacob.morgan@metronews.ca

Two real estate agents struck a deal this week that illustrates the changing character of Saskatoon's core Riversdale neighbourhood.

Paul Chavady and Jerry Hallgrimson of Royal LePage sold a property on Avenue C South for $205,000 within 24 hours.

"It set a new standard for the area, specifically for the street," said Chavady. "I think it shows where Riversdale is going and where Riversdale has been going in the past couple years."

He added that the house is a fixer-upper built in the early 20th century located right across from the farmers' market.

"It is in the area of Riversdale that is experiencing the most change," said Chavady.

Hallgrimson said that with many young people moving into Riversdale and new businesses opening up on 20th Street, there is increased demand in the real estate market.

"It's getting to be less rental and more home ownership," said Hallgrimson.

According to information Chavady provided from the Saskatoon Region Association of Realtors, the median sale price for housing has steadily risen since around 2006.

Executive director of the Riversdale Business Improvement District Randy Pshebylo, said that the quick sale is a good representation of the current reality of the neighbourhood.

The median sale price in 2013 was $237,500, he said, which is still below the city average. And in his roughly 20 years with the organization he has seen the vacancy rate go from 42 per cent to between 8 and 13 per cent.

Real estate agents Paul Chavady, right, and Jerry Hallgrimson of Royal LePage stand in front of the Riversdale house they sold within 24 hours on Avenue C South. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

"This is a place that people want to be and that's a far cry from where we've come," said Pshebylo.

WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

# Heritage committee wants say in cellphone towers

Saskatoon's municipal heritage advisory committee wants more input when it comes to cellphone towers on historical sites in the city.

A plan by SaskTel to construct a 45-metre cell phone tower in the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo has caused outcry amongst the heritage community, as they say it would be a "serious intrusion into the historic landscape."

City administration and the Meewasin Valley Authority have signed off on the project, but the heritage committee says they never had a chance to voice concerns.

Now they're calling on city council to consult with them before going ahead with similar projects in the future.

"Moving forward, we want to make sure we're involved in those consultations, because we do believe that as a national historic site, that this may set a precedent that we don't like," said committee chair Carla Duval-Tyler.

"We want to see our heritage areas preserved in a way that maintains their integrity."

The committee moved city council amend policy around the placement of cellphone towers, that if a project were to be constructed on any heritage site, be it federal, provincial or municipal, the city must consult with the committee and applicable stakeholders.

City administration said 279 residents that may be impacted by the project were notified, but only one person responded seeking further information.

Michelle Englot, director of external communications with SaskTel, said the location was selected after "significant analysis," and a request for tender on the project has been issued.

The committee recommendation will likely be discussed further at the Feb. 25 the city's planning and operations committee meeting.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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## Edmonton. Backpack offers grieving mother answers in son's suicide

Jan Thorpe finally has some answers about her son's death.

Jonathan Langille's backpack was returned to his mother Tuesday, less than a week after the 19-year-old was killed after stepping off the platform in front of an LRT train at Coliseum Station in Edmonton.

Following the accident, Thorpe made a public plea for help finding the backpack, which had been picked up by a bystander who watched as Langille took his own life.

"The girl who took it called us last night," said Thorpe. "She was very sorry about what happened."

In the backpack, Thorpe said, Langille left his journal, which included information about why he took his own life.

"He said he was overwhelmed," she said.

Jonathan Langille FACEBOOK

Thorpe said the family doesn't plan on pressing charges against the woman, who told Thorpe she was using drugs at the time she took the backpack. Thorpe said she hopes the young woman is able to get some help.

"Life is very short; never take anyone for granted," Thorpe said. "Jonathan showed no signs. If you feel like you are in a dark place, talk to somebody."

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO IN EDMONTON

## Inquest. Cops should 'stop shouting' at mentally ill, focus on diffusion tactics

When police encounter an emotionally disturbed person, officers should put more emphasis on defusing the situation through communication, particularly if those people don't respond to shouted police commands, a coroner's jury recommended Wednesday.

The suggestion is one of dozens put forward by a five-member jury in an inquest into the deaths of three mentally ill Toronto residents who were shot by police.

"If the EDP (emotionally disturbed person) has failed to respond to standard initial police commands … train officers to stop shouting those commands and attempt different defusing communication strategies," the jury recommended.

The president of the Toronto Police Association said his officers are open to anything that improves police and community relations, they already do try to de-escalate such situations.

"Could it be better? Yes. We can always look for improvement," said Mike McCormack. "But right now that's how we do respond. Our officers do not want to use lethal force unless we absolutely have to, so we de-escalate and try to maintain that de-escalation for as long as we can." THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Rail safety**

### Industry group calls for greater safeguards

It's only been a few weeks since Canadian policy-makers announced safety changes to rail cars, but elements within the industry already want to go further.

A U.S. industry association is recommending all new oil-carrying trains be equipped with a puncture-proof metal shell, taller shields and thermal insulation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Ottawa terror case**

### Reliability of audio transcript questioned

A lawyer for accused terrorist Khurram Syed Sher pressed a police detective Wednesday on the reliability of a transcript of a key meeting between Sher and two alleged co-conspirators.

During the July 20, 2010, meeting, Sher seems to express a desire to arrange overseas tactical training through a Pakistani man who claimed to be with the Taliban. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty gestures during question period in the House of Commons in Ottawa on Wednesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Income splitting exposes Tory rift

**Tensions.** Powerful Conservative ministers make contradictory statements on Harper campaign promise, but who spoke out of turn?

Two of the most powerful men in the Conservative cabinet have openly contradicted one another on a key campaign promise — a split that speaks to the different ideologies and allegiances in the Tory caucus.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty started the ball rolling Wednesday by candidly questioning the wisdom of expanding income splitting for Canadian families.

During the 2011 election, Prime Minister Stephen Harper promised to bring in the measure once the federal books were balanced. Allowing couples with children to split their income would mean parents could pool their income together in order to qualify for a lower tax bracket.

"I would pay down public debt and reduce taxes more, myself, but I am only one person," Flaherty said in a post-budget interview before the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce.

But Employment Minister Jason Kenney insisted the campaign promise would be kept, a sentiment echoed by Treasury Board President Tony Clement.

"We made a platform commitment to introduce income splitting when we get to a balanced budget; we'll get to a balanced budget next year, that's very clear," Kenney said.

So who spoke out of turn? Flaherty or Kenney?

One senior Conservative suggested Harper actually has his own reservations about income splitting. The Tory suggested social conservatives within the party would be more in favour of such a plan because it appeals to traditional families where only one parent works.

Other Conservatives speculated that Flaherty is feeling free to speak his mind because he has one foot out the door.

There have been tensions between Flaherty and Kenney recently over Toronto Mayor Rob Ford. Flaherty is a friend of Ford's, and reacted angrily when Kenney called on Ford to step down.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Flaherty fires back on job grant deadline

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is scoffing at provincial complaints about the April 1 deadline for the contentious Canada Job Grant imposed in Tuesday's federal budget, a tone that's in marked contrast to that of his cabinet colleague, Jason Kenney.

"The money is being put into job creation. Job training in Canada is not provincial tax money; it's federal tax money," Flaherty said Wednesday on his way into a Conservative cabinet meeting.

"And it's not for a provincial government to tell the federal government how to spend federal tax money.… The provincial governments have taxation powers; they can raise their own taxes."

Kenney, the employment minister in charge of the file, said simply that the government continues to talk to the provinces on the signature national job training program. He insisted he won't negotiate in public amid provincial griping about the April 1 deadline.

While Kenney has often suggested the federal government would go it alone on the job grant if necessary, he has insisted he far prefers a deal with the provinces.

He's yet to respond to a counter-offer put forth by the provinces earlier this month, but provincial officials have reported Kenney has been conciliatory and open to new ideas throughout the negotiations.

The proposed Canada Job Grant aims to provide $15,000 for each eligible worker, divided equally among Ottawa, the provinces and employers. In the face of a hue and cry from the provinces, Kenney offered to cover the provincial portion of grant, upping the feds' share to $10,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Surveillance

## Rand Paul sues Obama admin

Republican Sen. Rand Paul and a Tea Party backed group are suing the Obama administration over the National Security Agency's phone record collection policies. The lawsuit argues that the bulk collection program that's been in existence since 2006 violates the Constitution's Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

## Dancing in a beer tent part of the job

A German teacher has won a case for a work-related injury she suffered when she fell off a bench while dancing in a beer tent on a school trip.

In a statement Wednesday the court argued it was "normal and socially appropriate" for beer tent visitors to dance on the benches and that the teacher would have unduly distanced herself from her students if she had refused to participate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Classical music

## Japan's 'Beethoven' not so deaf after all

The man once lauded as Japan's Beethoven said he can partially hear in a new disclosure Wednesday following the stunning revelation last week that his Hiroshima symphony and other famed musical compositions were ghost-written.

In a handwritten statement, released to the Japanese media through his lawyer, Mamoru Samuragochi said he had regained part of his hearing three years ago. He apologized for the scandal and for failing to explain to his fans sooner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky

## Part of gay marriage ban struck down

A U.S. district judge concluded Wednesday that Kentucky must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states, striking down part of the state's marriage ban that was approved by voters in 2004. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Florida boy's killer executed

**Juan Carlos Chavez.** Murderer given lethal injection in Florida jail despite Supreme Court appeal

Juan Carlos Chavez THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man has been executed in Florida for raping and killing a nine-year-old boy 18 years ago, a death that spurred the victim's parents to press nationwide for stronger sexual predator confinement laws.

Authorities say 46-year-old Juan Carlos Chavez was pronounced dead Wednesday night after a lethal injection at Florida State Prison.

Chavez abducted Jimmy Ryce at gunpoint after the boy got off a school bus on Sept. 11, 1995, in rural southwestern Miami-Dade County.

Last-minute appeals temporarily delayed Wednesday's planned execution as Chavez's most recent round of state and federal court appeals focused on claims that Florida's lethal injection procedure is unconstitutional, that he didn't get due process during clemency hearings and that he should have an execution stay to pursue additional appeals in the federal courts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lethal injection

## *Drug temporarily blocked*

A federal judge late Wednesday temporarily blocked an Oklahoma compounding pharmacy from selling a drug to the Missouri Department of Corrections for use in an upcoming execution.

The restraining order was issued in a lawsuit filed a day earlier in U.S. District Court by Missouri death row inmate Michael Taylor. The lawsuit argued that several recent executions involving compounded pentobarbital show it will cause Taylor "inhumane pain." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Second bout of winter storms takes its toll on U.S. South

A Georgia Department of Transportation sign warns drivers of winter weather as they travel a bleak section of Highway 141 on Wednesday in Norcross, Ga. The second wintry storm in two weeks to hit the normally balmy U.S. South encrusted highways, trees and power lines in ice, knocking out electricity to more than 350,000 homes and businesses. At least nine traffic deaths across the region were blamed on the treacherous weather. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Discussion. North Korean demands manage to stall high-level talks with South Korea

The highest-level talks between the rival Koreas in years ended late Wednesday with little progress because of North Korea's call for the delay of annual military drills between Seoul and Washington set for later this month, officials said.

Seoul officials said the meeting was requested by North Korea, which has launched a recent charm offensive after raising tensions last spring with repeated threats to fire nuclear-tipped missiles against Seoul and Washington.

Later this month, the two Koreas are to hold reunions of families separated since the 1950-53 Korean War. They would be the first such reunions in more than three years.

North Korea also demanded South Korea delay the annual military drills set to begin Feb. 24 with the United States until the end of the family reunions, which are scheduled to start Feb. 20 and end five days later, the statement said. South Korea refused, saying it cannot link a purely humanitarian matter to a military issue. The military drills, which Pyongyang claims are preparations for an invasion but the allies call routine, are to end in mid-April.

The statement said the Koreas agreed to continue to discuss the matters, but didn't say when the next meeting would be held. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korean chief delegate Won Tong Yon, centre, walks with other delegates at the border village of Panmunjom, South Korea, on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Algerian soldier sole survivor of jet crash; few share that experience

**76 dead.** Fifteen people in the world share the soldier's fate of being the lone survivor, documentary reveals

The Algerian soldier who was the sole survivor of the crash of a military jet that killed 76 joins a group of people who carry a burden unique to those who live through mass tragedy.

Just a handful of people around the world share the experience — including another Algerian soldier from a 2003 crash whose name has never been released. They often cope with debilitating and isolating guilt and injuries, according to Ky Dickens, director and co-producer of the documentary Sole Survivor. Dickens, who began research for her film in 2010, identified 15 sole survivors around the world. "Every lone survivor we talked to, they tended to not want to be found, not want to share their story, not want to talk about it," Dickens said.

Here are two of their stories:

**RETURN FROM SAFARI:** The nine-year-old Dutch boy was still strapped to his seat, unconscious but still breathing, his legs shattered amid the debris scattered in the Libyan desert sand. The Afriqiyah Airways Airbus crashed on approach to Tripoli, killing 103 passengers and crew on May 12, 2010. Ruben van Assouw learned that he was the sole survivor only days later.

**PLUCKED FROM THE OCEAN:** Bahia Bakari remembered little from the last moments of the Yemenia Airways flight she took with her mother from Paris to the Comoros in 2009 — an electric shock to her body, the cries of women she could not see. Alone in the Indian Ocean darkness — 152 people died on the flight — she grabbed some debris and floated. For 10 hours the 12-year-old stayed in the water, until a passing fisherman came to her rescue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The wreckage of an Algerian military plane that slammed into a mountain Tuesday. ANIS BELGHOUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Algeria plane crash

## *Officials reduce death toll*

The toll for the crash of an Algerian military transport plane has been reduced to 76 dead and one survivor, a civil defence spokesman said Wednesday.

Lt. Nassim Bernaoui of Algerian Civil Defence said the military plane carried 77 people, not 78.

The Algerian military transport slammed into an eastern mountain on Tuesday as it flew to the city of Constantine. The plane took off from the desert city of Tamanrasset. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Amnesty International. Group fears 'ethnic cleansing' in Central African Republic

The exodus of tens of thousands of Muslims from Central African Republic amounts to "ethnic cleansing," Amnesty International said Wednesday, warning that the sectarian bloodshed now underway despite the presence of thousands of peacekeepers is a "tragedy of historic proportions."

Their report comes as the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed fears that the violence ravaging Central African Republic could ultimately divide the country in two.

"We cannot just continue to say 'never again.' This, we have said so many times," Ban said late Tuesday.

"We must act concertedly and now to avoid continued atrocities on a massive scale."

Meanwhile, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian pledged Wednesday on a visit to Central African Republic to continue disarming both Muslim and Christian fighters. "No one accepts or will accept a partition" into a Muslim north and Christian south, he said.

In recent days, thousands of Muslims have climbed aboard trucks destined for neighbouring Chad, a predominantly Muslim country whose soldiers have provided armed protection to the convoys.

A wave of violence against Muslim civilians is being committed by Christian militiamen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muslim exodus

**For months, UN and French officials have warned that a genocide could be looming in Central African Republic, and Amnesty's use of the term "ethnic cleansing" is among the strongest language invoked yet.**

- Amnesty said the term is justified "given the level of violent and purposeful forced displacement."

## U.K. Bad weather likely linked to climate change: British weather service

Britain's weather service says it sees the tentacles of climate change in a spate of storms and floods battering the country, but has stopped short of saying warming directly caused the extreme storms.

The latest round of bad weather hit Britain's west coast Wednesday with winds gusting at more than 160 km/h.

The Met Office said in a paper published this week that "there is no definitive answer" on the role played by climate change in the recent weather and floods.

But it said there is "an increasing body of evidence that extreme daily rainfall rates are becoming more intense," probably due to a warming world.

Met Office chief scientist Julia Slingo said "all the evidence suggests there is a link to climate change." England had its wettest January since records were first kept 250 years ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A resident pushes her dog in a wheelbarrow, in the flooded part of Staines-upon-Thames, England, on Wednesday. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Panama Canal

### Tentative deal on dispute reached

Panama Canal Administrator Jorge Quijano said Wednesday that a tentative agreement with contractors has been reached on some issues that have stalled work on the biggest expansion of the waterway in a century.But Quijano said the Panama Canal Authority might take over the project if no agreement is reached this week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Watchdog survey

### U.S. plunges in press freedom

Efforts to protect national security have taken a toll on press freedom in the last year, above all in the U.S., a media watchdog said. The U.S. ranked 46th among 180 countries in a survey by Reporters Without Borders, falling 13 places from last year. "Freedom of information is too often sacrificed to an overly broad and abusive interpretation of national security needs," their report said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Switzerland

### Gun ownership rules changed

The Swiss government says it's lifting its ban on weapon ownership for citizens of Croatia and Montenegro but keeping it for people from other southeast European countries, Algeria and Sri Lanka. The Federal Council said Wednesday there's no more reason for the two countries to be on a list of nations whose citizens can't buy or own weapons in Switzerland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thailand

### Court tosses out election fight

Thailand's constitutional court on Wednesday rejected petitions by both the ruling and main opposition parties accusing each other of attempting to overthrow the system of government during recent elections. The government could have been forced out of office if the opposition won its case. The court said there was no validity to the claims by the ruling Pheu Thai Party or the opposition Democrat Party. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Georgia tells guests of Olympics to stay clear of Abkhazia

**Breakaway territory.**
The region remains a sticking point between the country and Russia

Georgia on Wednesday called on foreign visitors to the Winter Olympics to keep out of Abkhazia, a Russia-aligned breakaway territory just south of Sochi along the Black Sea coast.

The International Olympic Committee, however, said there was no reason not to go to Abkhazia.

Abkhazia declared independence shortly after Russian forces crushed the Georgian army in a brief 2008 war, but most of the world still considers it Georgian territory. Only Russia, Venezuela, Nicaragua and two Pacific island nations have recognized Abkhazia as an independent country.

Russia's attempts to facilitate travel across its border with Abkhazia, only five kilometres (three miles) south of Olympic venues, was "a provocation aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia" and "misleading foreign citizens," the Georgian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Asked the IOC's view on Olympics visitors going to Abkhazia, IOC spokesman Mark Adams said, "Why not?"

"The talks and exchanges between the two governments, that's entirely been to the two governments," he said. "In terms of going to Abkhazia ... well if it's safe, people will go there."

Alexandra Kosterina, spokeswoman for the Sochi organizers, refused to comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Talks**

**Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that he hoped the Games would help to mend fences and expressed a willingness to meet with his Georgian counterpart.**

- The Georgian government responded positively.
- Mutual personal enmity had prevented any meeting between Putin and former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, whose term ended in November.

## Child euthanasia.
# Belgian bid expected to pass despite opposition

Belgian lawmakers clashed sharply on Wednesday over whether to grant terminally ill children the right to ask to die, a legal option already possessed by the country's adults.

The issue is pitting backers who see it as a question of mercy against opponents who claim the law is rushed, flawed and lacking medical rationale. Despite the spirited debate in the House of Representatives, the bill is widely expected to pass on Thursday.

"Our responsibility is to allow everybody to live, but also to die, in dignity," said Karine Lalieux, a Socialist member of the House of Representatives who favours extending Belgium's 2002 euthanasia law to minors under 18, with the added conditions that their parents approve and they understand what the decision means.

Sonja Becq, a Christian Democratic colleague, denounced the potential change, saying modern-day science is capable of relieving pain in very sick children until their illnesses runs their natural course.

"We cannot accept that euthanasia be presented as a 'happy ending,'" she said. Belgium sets legal limits on who can legally acquire cigarettes and alcohol, she said — so why not for euthanasia?

The Senate, the other chamber of the federal legislature, adopted the legislation by a wide margin in December. If it passes in the House, all that would be needed for child euthanasia to become legal in Belgium is the signature of King Philippe, normally a formality.

The only other countries to have legalized euthanasia are two of Belgium's neighbours, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. In the Netherlands, children between 12 and 15 may be euthanized with parents' permission, while those who are 16 or 17 must notify their parents beforehand. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Nigeria.
# Extremists attack northeast town

Hundreds of Islamic extremists posing as soldiers attacked a northeast Nigerian town for hours, killing 39 people and razing a mosque and more than 1,000 homes, survivors said Wednesday.

In the ruins of the burned-out mosque, bodies covered in cloth lay ready for burial Wednesday, including three small shrouds covering children who did not look more than 10 years old.

"Why us? Why us?" one woman wailed, trying to understand why militants set on creating an Islamic state in Nigeria would attack a town of mainly Muslim farmers.

Numerous villages in the area have been attacked and hundreds have been killed in recent months despite a nine-month-long military state of emergency.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Privatization failures spark unrest in Bosnia

**Sarajevo is burning.** Collapse of more than 80% of privatized companies has ignited widespread anger

The recent violence in Bosnia, with scenes of burning government buildings and protesters pelting police with stones, has many root causes. One of them is the failed privatizations of state-owned companies.

When Bosnia abandoned communism about two decades ago, officials devised a plan that wouldn't mean mass layoffs for state workers. It was supposed to be a smooth transition after the 1992-1995 war that left 100,000 dead and devastated the country's infrastructure.

But it has been a disaster for people like Munevera Drugovac, a 58-year-old widow, who works for a company that was bought by a businessman in 2004. She hasn't been paid in 19 months.

"Back then, I didn't have electricity and heating because of the war," she said. "Now, I don't have it because of unpaid bills."

More than 80 per cent of privatizations have failed, becoming a core reason behind Bosnia's worst unrest since the end of the war. Many well-connected tycoons have swept into these companies, stripping them of their assets, declaring bankruptcy and leaving thousands without jobs or with minimal pay.

After the breakup of socialist Yugoslavia, Bosnians knew little about capitalism and relied on Westerners for advice.

"We entered the process of privatization with people who had no idea what a market economy was and without a rule of law," economist Svetlana Cenic said. "That's a recipe for disaster."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Bosnian protester helps start a fire at a local government building during protests in the town of Tuzla last week. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## That's a lot of dough. Canada Bread sold to Mexican firm for $1.83B

Canada Bread has struck an agreement to be acquired by one of the world's largest bread companies in a transaction valued at $1.83 billion.

Grupo Bimbo, based in Mexico, said Wednesday it will buy Canada's dominant breadmaker with the support of Maple Leaf Foods, which owns a 90 per cent stake in the operations.

What Grupo Bimbo gains from buying Canada Bread is a position in the Canadian marketplace and the ownership of popular brands like Dempster's and Bon Matin.

"The company fits exactly within our strategic soft spot as a leader in its domestic market," Grupo Bimbo chief executive Daniel Servitje said in a conference call.

"(This is) a new market for Grupo Bimbo which helps strengthen our presence in the Americas and one that had grown steadily and with little volatility in terms of pricing."

The transaction also ends Maple Leaf Foods' pursuit of a buyer for the bakery division, which it announced last October.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Slicing off divisions**

**Maple Leaf Foods is in the midst of a restructuring plan to improve the profits of its overall business, which is primarily focused on meat products. It has already sold various divisions and hopes to complete the process by next year.**

## You could be a millionaire!

**Emirati consultant Abdulrahman Mansour Al Serkal presents a drone prototype as a part of an initiative by the Prime Minister's Office during the Dubai Government Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday. An adviser to Dubai's ruler says the United Arab Emirates intends to develop drone technology for government services and has launched a $1 million US international competition for the best innovative use of unmanned aircraft to help improve the lives of people.** KAMRAN JEBREILI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## What's the provenance? Israeli settlements face boycotts on home turf

These days, when Yaakov Berg tries to sell his award-winning line of Psagot boutique wines, he encounters obstacles from every direction. As a Jewish vintner in a West Bank settlement, his product is increasingly considered off-limits.

"Not just overseas, also in Tel Aviv," says Berg, 37. "So we have big problems. Actually, it's almost impossible to sell in (Tel Aviv) restaurants."

With Israel mired in a struggle to combat growing calls in Europe to boycott Israeli products and businesses with ties to the controversial settlements, a quieter and more informal campaign is subtly emerging at home among Israelis themselves.

Israelis who may have long supported peace but also considered the settlements no big deal are starting to ask why Israel continues building there in the face of what looks like a rare global consensus against them verging on outrage.

And even among Israelis who consider the West Bank Israel's by right, there seems to be some discomfort now with continued investment in the West Bank instead of a genuine effort to address an internal housing crisis and other social ills in Israel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli workers inspect barrels in a winery in the West Bank settlement of Psagot, earlier this week. DAN BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**U.S.-Canada relations**

### Time to prep for post-Obama era, says Jim Prentice

It's high time Canada started looking beyond the Obama era if it wants to push economic integration with the United States to a new level, says former Conservative Cabinet Minister Jim Prentice.

That includes pushing for approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, which has been stalled by U.S. domestic politics, Prentice said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Black Wednesday?**

### Bitcoin's value drops by almost 50% after freeze

A freeze on bitcoin withdrawals imposed by three major exchanges won't cause any long-term harm to the digital currency's credibility, entrepreneurs attending a bitcoin conference said Wednesday.

Bitcoin's value, which topped $1,100 US in November, dropped below $630 US Wednesday after news of the freeze. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Fourth-quarter results**

### Air Canada shares hit turbulence

Air Canada vowed it won't be thrown off course even though its shares went into a tailspin Wednesday after severe weather and a weaker dollar hurt fourth-quarter results and promised to inflict more pain.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**United Auto Workers**

### Volkswagen to get das auto union in the U.S.?

Workers at Volkswagen's lone U.S. plant kicked off an election Wednesday about whether they want to be join the United Auto Workers union. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**'Grave security danger'**

### White House to help industry fight cyberattacks

The White House on Wednesday offered to help U.S. businesses protect their computer systems from cyberattacks the president called "one the gravest national security dangers that the United States faces."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Market Minute**

**DOLLAR** 90.93¢ (+0.16¢)

**TSX** 13,900.49 (+19.50)

**OIL** $100.37 US (+$0.43)

**GOLD** $1,295 US (+$5.20)

**Natural gas:** $4.85 US (-$0.09)
**Dow Jones:** 15,963.94 (-30.83)

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HE SAYS

**John Mazerolle**
metronews.ca

Normally I'd say Valentine's Day is a holiday that should be cut short like its decapitated namesake.

Normally I'd argue it's not a real holiday unless I'm earning time and a half.

Normally I'd suggest that the only reason Valentine's receives any attention at all is that it lands when the weather is barren and any real holidays are far away. It's like a stranger in a bar when the lights come on. Our time with it might be awkward and trashy, but we'll take what we can get.

But I won't say any of that because I have a girlfriend for the first Valentine's this decade. So — just in case she cares — Valentine's is a wonderful, splendiferous day (wheee!) and I can't wait to spend it with her in whatever reasonably priced restaurant she desires.

As a loving tribute to my return to coupledom, I offer this fragrant bouquet of information:

**Valentine's Day By The Numbers:**

**1:** The loneliest number.

**2:** The least lonely number.

**3:** The soon-to-be-lonely-again number.

**4:** The polygam-est number.

**Relationships**

**13,491,617:** Number of Canadians who would laugh in your face if you asked them out right now.

**12:** Happy couples.

**700:** Percentage spike in the crime rate since same-sex couples were allowed to marry and society crumbled.

**1.3:** Median number of children it will take to salvage your crumbling relationship.

**580,000:** Number of times someone will say, "I don't know, what do you wanna do?" on Valentine's Day (average three per couple).

**170:** Number of guys pretending they like Michael Bublé at any given moment.

**5:** Number of days after Valentine's you can wait before dumping your partner, guilt-free.

**0:** Number of unrequited loves thinking about you right now.

**Gifts**

**$356:** Minimum amount your partner will spend on you if they really love you.

**32:** Number of insect larvae legally permitted in the chocolates you're about to receive.

**15:** Number of years until corporations automatically deduct a minimum $100 directly from your chequing account as part of a Mandatory Incidental Love Fee, or MILF.

**8,732:** Number of relationships that will spark with the heat of a thousand suns thanks to the gift of a heart-shaped doughnut.

**60,000:** Approximate number of bees killed annually for Bee Mine? card industry.

**$1.4 billion:** Value of all Valentine's cards purchased in North America.

**1.4 seconds:** Average time spent glancing at card.

**14,541:** Number of Canadians unemployed in the candy, floral and gift card business because of you and your friends' cynical attitudes.

**Fewer than 12:** Number of minutes I spent on research.

ZOOM

# Did Russia get this wrong?

COURTESY GREG WYSHYNSKI/YAHOO SPORTS

## Rings' colours not tied to continents

No, the different-coloured Olympic rings don't correspond to specific continents.

But you'd be forgiven for thinking differently if you're going to or from Sochi's airport.

Five enormous concrete sculptures of the rings welcome visitors, each labelled in bold letters, in Russian and English, with the name of a continent: Africa, Asia, Australia (pictured), Europe, and the Americas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**In actuality...**

- International Olympic Committee spokesman Mark Adams says "the rings are not assigned to each continent."
- When Pierre de Coubertin, considered the founder of the modern Olympics, designed the rings a century ago, he chose black, red, yellow, green and blue because every flag in the world bore at least one of those colours, according to the Olympic Museum.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

JOSH SEMANS/FLICKR

**So maybe those piano or violin lessons in elementary school didn't exactly stick, but surely you remember a scale or two. Test your musical memory, or just have fun making music with these apps that turn your phone into a handheld musical "instrument." Warning: This will annoy pretty much anyone in earshot and you will have way more fun creating "songs" than anyone will have listening to them.**

### Shaker:

**Turn your phone into a pocket percussion centre. From the triangle to the tambourine to the tam tam, this free iTunes app has the drum section of your band covered.**

### Harmonica:

**Both Apple and Android have their eyes on the handheld harmonica (oh wait, real ones are also handheld), but the Android version lets users get up close with their phones and play with their mouth (option for hands too, if you don't trust where your phone's been).**

### Virtuoso Piano 3:

**Just like riding a bike, once you learn to play Heart and Soul you never forget. Or so no one's ever said. Test the theory and tickle the ivories on your phone.**

Twitter

**@metropicks asked: Canada's men's hockey team plays Norway Thursday. Should fighting be allowed in Olympic hockey?**

**@CALanuza:** Yes, it brings excitement to the game; Remember this guys are pro athletes.. #Sochi2014 #yyc

**@Dweller15:** off course, what kind of question is it? What a hokey without fight?

**@cndneh:** why should fighting be allowed at all?

**@Mr_B_Robertson:** No. The greater the threat of injury to NHL players, the greater the chance the NHL won't let its players go the Olympics.

**@kkjohal769:** NO!!fighting is not necessary send the right message to our young people

**@larrington:** with fighting allowed, world does not take NHL ice hockey seriously as a sport; it's just entertainment.

**@MainStPoodle:** Yes. And growling, chasing and biting.

**Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.**

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Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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# Hosaluk has the cutting wedge

**Artist.** New exhibition features provocative works including Prime Minister Harper and Toronto Mayor Ford with wedges in their heads

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca

Artist Michael Hosaluk poses with work featured in his exhibition Put A Wedge In It, on display at the Affinity Gallery at the Saskatchewan Craft Council.

Michael Hosaluk's stands with two of his more provocative pieces featuring Prime Minister, Stephen Harper and Toronto Mayor Rob Ford. BOTH CONTRIBUTED

The wedge seems like a relatively simple object, but where others see a basic triangle, artist Michael Hosaluk has found greatness, taken it beyond a simple tool and made works of art.

"With the wedge it was more 'What else could it be?'" Hosaluk said.

That question led to a new installation at the Saskatchewan Craft Council called Put A Wedge In It. In answering it, Hosaluk, who has achieved international recognition as a craftsperson and designer, saw his artistic horizons expand dramatically beyond his more functional works.

"I could stick to my everyday; I could stick to what I'm known for and that would be easy. But I felt there was an opportunity to explore further with ideas that I get."

Among the most provocative works in the exhibition are those depicting Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Toronto Mayor Rob Ford with wedges in their foreheads. But Hosaluk claims he isn't political and isn't trying to be controversial, but rather responding to the reactions of Canadians towards the figures.

"I had no idea I'd make those; it wasn't a plan. It was almost by public demand that they be there. It was just an extension of the wedge; everyone's sort of putting the wedge in Harper and Ford because of what they're doing."

And much like the featured device itself, the show started off small, but in the end expanded into something much larger. Hosaluk invited fellow artists to contribute their own works inspired by wedges.

"I sent it out the idea to them and if they reacted, great. If not, no big deal. I always find that's an interesting study that you show other thought processes in an exhibition, what other artists go through."

The Invernay, Sask. native has shown his work and lectured internationally. His pieces can be found in the collections at Buckingham Palace, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Yale University Art Gallery among others.

But Hosaluk, who now lives and works in Saskatoon, says when it comes to putting on an exhibition, there really is no place like home.

"Locally is always the greatest honour, it's always most important to me to show to my hometown than anywhere in the world. The art is all about who I am and this place helped make me that person."

Put A Wedge In It will be on display at the Affinity Gallery in the Saskatchewan Craft Council, 813 Broadway Avenue, through Feb. 22.

**Quoted**

**"I could stick to my everyday, I could stick to what I'm known for and that would be easy. But I felt there was an opportunity to explore further with ideas that I get."**
Michael Hosaluk, artist

**Wedge in winter**

In addition to politicians, Michael Hosaluk's work takes aim at another subject much on the minds of Canadians. But the one targeted in Prairie Landscapes is much less likely to cause arguments among them. "It was a reaction to last winter when it just went on and on forever and I was working on some of these pieces and I thought, 'I'm just going to put a wedge in winter, try to break it up and get it out of here.'"

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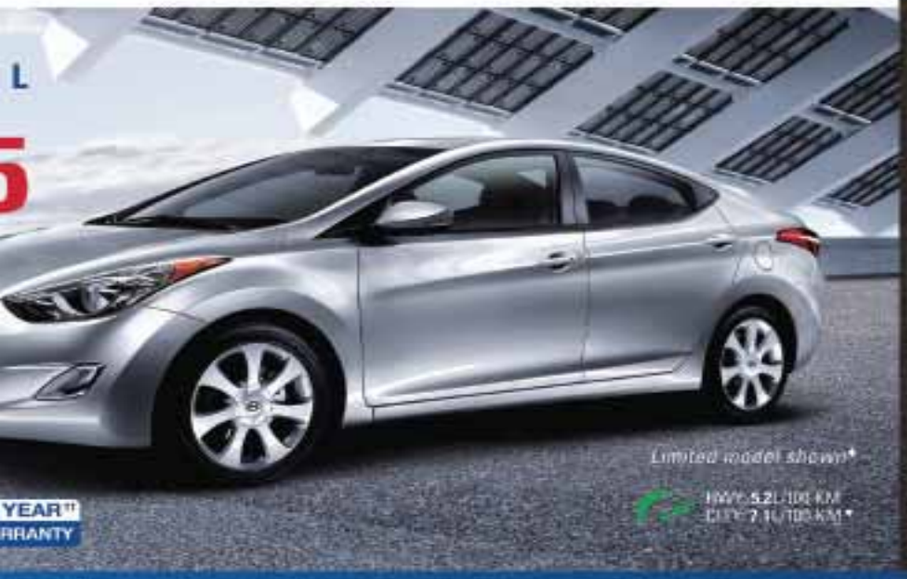


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# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

**The Word**

## *Will $75M deal bring sizzle back to celeb cook's career?*

Paula Deen has found a key ingredient to reheating her tarnished brand — a cash infusion worth at least $75 million US from a private investment firm.

The Savannah-based celebrity cook announced Wednesday that she's launched an umbrella company that will oversee her restaurants, cookbooks, product endorsements and other remaining slices of her media empire. The new company, called Paula Deen Ventures, said private-equity firm Najafi Companies is investing $75 million to $100 million to help Deen make a comeback.

Deen's fortunes took a dive last year after comments she made under oath during proceedings in a lawsuit, namely that she had used racial slurs in the past, became public. The Food Network dropped Deen, as did pork producer Smithfield Foods, book publisher Ballantine and several other companies that paid her to endorse their products.

In a statement, Deen praised the partnership with Phoenix-based Najafi and the decision to name Steven Nanula, who has already worked with Deen for the past two years, to serve as CEO of Paula Deen Ventures.

"I know this is the right decision to lead my team, as we continue to share quality products with my fans — whose love and support have built my brands," Deen said.

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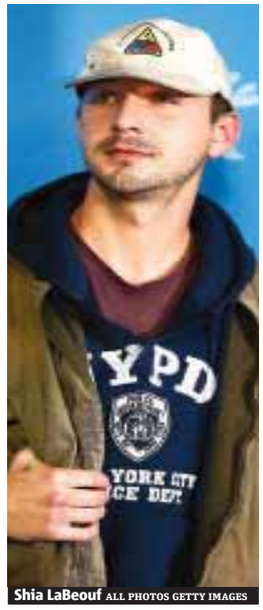
metro

## LaBeouf, are you really #SORRY or is this piece just a pile of bull-Shia?



Shia LaBeouf ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Shia LaBeouf is sorry. So sorry, in fact, that he's embarked on a "performance art" piece this week at a Los Angeles gallery space entitled #IAMSORRY. According to the gallery's press release, "Shia LaBeouf is sorry. Sincerely sorry. He will be in situ at 7354 Beverly Blvd. for the duration. Implements will be provided." Visitors are invited, one by one, to enter a curtained-off room where LaBeouf sits at a table in a tuxedo with a paper bag over his head, eye holes cut out. He says nothing, responds to no questions, and then removes the bag to show that he is crying. LaBeouf is scheduled to be staring at visitors and crying through Sunday. Fans of pointing out LaBeouf's penchant for plagiarism have been happy to remark on the similarities between this stunt and Marina Abramovic's 2010 installation piece The Artist is Present, during which she would sit in a gallery and let strangers stare at her one at a time, eventually bursting into tears.

Eva Mendes

## Eva X-es out rumours that she's with child after airport opt-out

Eva Mendes knows the consequences of being picky about security. The actress recently opted out of using a walk-in body scanner at the airport, prompting speculation that she's pregnant. "You know those X-ray scanners, which are really creepy? They basically see you naked," she tells Ellen DeGeneres during an interview. "And not only that, but there's a radiation aspect to it. So I always opt out. I always ask for a personal pat-down. That was good enough reason (for people to assume I'm pregnant.)" Sure, but what about those breakup rumours circulating since she and Ryan Gosling haven't been spotted together since October? While Mendes' publicist was already quick to shoot down such reports, Mendes offers some jokey plans for Valentine's Day that pointedly do not include Gosling — at least not in person: "I'm not a big Valentine's Day person," she says. "I'll probably just order a deep dish and watch The Notebook or something. Just cry, weep."

**Twitter**

**@EllenBarkin**
Do you think I could be the "global ambassador" for Lay's potato chips?

**@ActuallyNPH**
I'm so proud of @RealHughJackman for hosting this year's Tony Awards and for calling me an hour ago to say, 'Suck it!'

**@SarahKSilverman**
Doing a kickstarter to raise $ for rich kids who have never heard the word no. Please help!

# Guess what's coming to Danielle

**Who's that girl?**
Canada's Danielle Knudson only told her family and a handful of close friends that she'd booked the campaign of a lifetime. I Guess everyone else is about to find out.

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
elizabeth.beddall
@metronews.ca

When I meet up with Guess' new it-girl Danielle Knudson, she's surrounded by loose copies of her new ad campaign for the iconic brand. The spread features photos of the blonde bombshell frolicking in the late-afternoon Laguna Beach sunlight.

These images are in stark contrast to the surrounding polar-vortexed environment of our chat, which has left Danielle and I both sweater-bundled as we get warm inside the confines of the Guess boutique in Toronto's Queen West neighbourhood.

But while my pasty face and salt-stained boots give me away as a winter-whipped local, you'd think this new Guess girl, with her sunkissed skin and golden locks, was born and raised along the southern California shoreline. But make no mistake about it, she's Canadian.

Danielle Knudson says her next goal as a model is to be featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated. We'd sign off on that!
HANDOUT

**You're now living the model's dream life in New York, but you were born and raised in Alberta. Is there anything you miss about home?**
I loved growing up in Red Deer — I was there right until I was 18. And my family now lives just outside of Banff. Going home, I still love going home to see the mountains. We have a ski hill in Red Deer that no one knows about called Canyon Ski Area, which is kind of hidden in the middle of nowhere. I spent many years growing up there skiing.

**The story of your rise to fame is an insanely quick one. As I understand you were at a shoot for another client and were asked to take a selfie, which was forwarded to Guess LA. Guess booked you that day, flew you out to LA that night and began shooting with you the next day. Correct?**
Yes, about six months ago I got booked for the look book. Paul Marciano came to the shoot and met me and the agency called me and they put me on hold for everything and the rest is kind of history. It was like boom, boom, boom.

**Tell me a little bit about the day of the Laguna Beach shoot. What was the general itinerary?**
The campaign was actually shot over three days. We woke up very early because the lighting was beautiful in the morning — maybe 5:30. It went by so quickly. We would do hair and makeup and go to location, and shoot so many looks. We'd shoot until the sun went down.

**Paul Marciano was on set with you at this shoot as well. What's he like?**
Paul has been so amazing — he's been so supportive of me. Always told me to be myself. He just made me feel like I'm important to the brand — that they wanted me there.

**Flash forward a year from today. What do you foresee?**
My life is changing very quickly — I'm taking everything in as it's coming my way.

## She's got this in the bag

Purell on-the-go hand sanitizer
$1.79, purell.com

L'Oréal Paris Colour Riche Balm
$7.96, walmart.ca

Benefit's High Beam luminescent complexion enhancer.
$32, sephora.com

Tabasco Sauce Miniature
$0.55, tabasco.com
"I put hot sauce on everything I eat."

## Canadian street style

**Spotted in: Toronto**

**Name: Ailyn**

**Age: 19**

**Occupation: Film student**

**What she's wearing**
Blundstone boots, thrift store denim jeans, winter cape from the ROM's boutique, lace shirt from Club Monaco, and Fjallraven Kanken backpack.

**Her inspiration**
"Normally I go vintage, stuff you'd find in your grandma's closet. I'm a kid stuck in the '90s. This outfit, however, is my winter hipster look."

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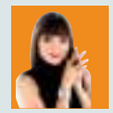

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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@MrRalphRucci is a genius. Staff are artisans!"@womens weardaily: Rucci's seamstresses watch show from atelier. #NYFW

Guess who???? #MtTremblant #WeAreWinter #FreakinFreezing

# Fall in love with these sweet ideas

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Fantastic. How exactly did Valentine's Day sneak up on you? If you forgot to plan for Friday, let Deanna Lorraine help you out. This San Diego-based dating coach shares her best ideas for couples of all stages.

There are a number of ways you can impress your significant other this Valentine's Day. LUMINAIMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

**If you have just started dating**

"Surprise her with a big bouquet at her work," Lorraine said. Or amaze your new beau with your gourmet side. "Take them to your place for candles, music and a gourmet meal you've prepared."

**If you have been together a long time**

"Plan a last-minute overnight trip to somewhere within driving distance or a quick flight away," Lorraine said. Have a look at travel websites to score last-minute flight and hotel deals.

Or surprise your partner with your thoughtfulness. "Pick up tickets to a concert or play they're interested in."

**If you are single**

Google can turn up many singles events happening on Valentine's Day.

"Or create a singles event — throw an anti-Valentine's singles party," Lorraine said. "And tell everyone to invite any single person they know."

Or how about taking a trip?

"Plan a trip with a friend who's single — a road trip or getaway for the weekend like New York or Vegas. So something you can look forward to together. Make it an excuse to get out of town and away from all the couples."

**If you are on a budget**

Create couple coupons. "Make a book of coupons to redeem for a massage or a night of me cooking dinner for you," Lorraine said.

Or get scrapbooking. "Make either a physical or online book. There's some great cheap or free software online such as Animoto that you can put together video clips and pictures with music."

**If you have a family**

Do the kids like to celebrate with mom and dad?

"Create a big dinner and have everyone help cook—and also cook something you normally wouldn't," Lorraine said. "Have everyone dress up, too."

But it's important parents get some time together, too, she added.

"So after the kids are in bed, have a secret date in your master bedroom with a decadent dessert."

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## Suggestions for your sweetheart

Big Silver Heart, from the Hila Binyamin Meaningful Love collection, hilabinyamin.etsy.com.

Lush Close To You massage bar, $7.95, available at Lush, lush.ca.

Customizable Perfect Tea Mug, $22.250, available at DAVIDsTEA, davidstea.com.

Tissot Pinky for Valentine's Day, $395, available at select retail locations across the country, tissot.ch.

Roots Lip Pouch Prince, $26, available at Roots, roots.ca.

# Gifts with a creative flair

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Forget roses — this year, you want your Valentine's Day gifting to have a creative flair to it. So what to give?

Here are a few ideas for you to steal.

**Instead of chocolate ...**

Get some old-school candy. Does your love have a sweet tooth? Hit a retro candy store such as Sugar Mountain and put together a basket of Nerds, Lik-a-Maids, Necco Wafers, Laffy Taffies and more for a sweet night.

Or go the opposite route and give your love a chilled bottle of wine along with a gift bag of crackers, upscale cheeses and pates to ensure a romantic night in.

**Instead of red roses ...**

Get a balloon arrangement. Many flower stores also sell balloon packages for someone who may get the sneezes with flowers.

Or pick up a piece of artwork at a local boutique or shop.

**Instead of restaurant reservations ...**

Get your inner Bobby Flay on and surprise your partner with a bag of groceries. You read that right — only your job will be to turn that bag into a gourmet meal at your place while your Valentine sits back and sips Merlot.

Or buy her favourite takeout, a bottle of wine and the kind of sappy movie that's only allowed to be seen on Valentine's Day. A cosy night at your place may just be for what your partner is looking.

**Instead of a classic diamond engagement ring ...**

Propose with a vintage ring you have picked out especially for her. Be sure to work with a vendor you trust to ensure you get a quality ring.

Or there are many alternates to a traditional engagement ring. Think a black diamond, a ring featuring a ruby, sapphire, emerald or topaz stone. Or you can browse craft sites such as Etsy.com to find rings featuring petrified wood, square rings, rose rings and more.

Instead of red roses this year, get a balloon arrangement for your sweetheart. GPOINTSTUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

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# Best sofas to let sleeping dogs lie

**Love your pup but not what he does to your furniture?** Expert tips on buying pieces that can stand up to pets

"I would always suggest a fabric with a small pattern or texture — a herringbone pattern or small check creates a great disguise."
Designer Jay Jeffers
Designer Jay Jeffers relaxes with one of his two cavalier King Charles spaniels. CAVALIER BY JAY JEFFERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sydney Masters' dog Angus has white fur. But he loves to play and dig in the mud, so his paws are often brown. And that was a factor in Masters' choice of sofa.

"We didn't choose the lovely white sofa that I wanted. No! We chose a rich dark brown leather couch," said Masters, who shares a Manhattan apartment and a home in France with her husband, who is French, and with Angus, a West Highland terrier.

Finding furniture that dogs and cats won't ruin is a challenge. Here are some things to think about when you're buying furniture, along with some ideas for protecting it from fur, stains and scratches.

### Leather

Many dog owners report that leather works well as a pooch-proof alternative to fabric. "It's that kind of glossed leather that repels water and dirt," Masters says. But leather might not work for households with cats, who may damage it with their claws, according to the American Humane Association's chief veterinary adviser Dr. Patricia Olson.

### Microfibre

Some cat owners say that microfibre, a synthetic, velvety suede-like material, is a good alternative. It's smoother and less appealing to cats than knits or woven fabric they can sink their claws into. And fur — from dogs or cats — is easily removed from microfibre with a vacuum, lint roller or cloth. Microfibre can also be spot-cleaned.

### Fabric

If you own pets and must have fabric-covered sofas, consider this advice from Jay Jeffers of the Jeffers Design Group in San Francisco: "I would always suggest a fabric with a small pattern or texture — a herringbone pattern or small check creates a great disguise."

And don't be afraid to camouflage your pet's fur. "In our house, the furniture is in similar colours to our pets so their fur blends in," Jeffers said.

Fabric slipcovers with zippers that are easily removed and washed are a plus. Some brands, like Ikea, sell fitted slipcovers for their sofas so they can be replaced easily.

### A couch of their own

One way to keep pets off your furniture is to give them a couch of their own. Choices abound, from $30 floor pillows at discount pet chains to $1,200-$1,400 US custom B-Home brand dog beds, sold at Jeffers' design store, Cavalier — named for his two cavalier King Charles spaniels. Enchanted Home Pet sells classy dog-size sofas that look a lot like sofas for humans. They run $60 to $300 US depending on size, style and place of purchase; they're available online and in store.

A dog-sized sofa as an accent piece. ENCHANTED HOME PET/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Covering up

The simplest way to protect furniture from pets is a fitted slipcover or other covering designed to stay put and look neat. Matt Kovacs, owner of an English bulldog, Lulu, has tried a number of covers and recommends the SureFit brand. "Without the covers, furniture doesn't stand a chance."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Kitty corners as big as all outdoors in a catio

When Carrie Fagerstrom was looking for a new home in Portland, Ore., her must-have list didn't include a spacious yard, plenty of closets or even a large kitchen.

Her highest priority: The comfort of her cats.

"I really wanted a house that would allow me to build a place for them," said Fagerstrom, who had visions of a catio out back.

A catio is essentially a cat's playground. It's an enclosed, covered area, much like a patio, that allows feline friends to be exposed to the outdoors, getting fresh air and scenery, while keeping them safe from predators.

"I thought it would be as simple as running wire on three sides and putting tarp overhead, but it wasn't that easy," Fagerstrom said. "It ended up being a much bigger project, but I love it."

Roughly $5,000 later, her eight cats have room to roam in a catio filled with scratching posts, climbing apparatuses and even a drinking fountain. The space also contains human seating so that Fagerstrom and her friends can enjoy it as well.

"It's a very calm and serene place," she said.

Catios got their start with cat breeders and at animal sanctuaries, but more and more cat owners have begun building them at home, according to Kate Benjamin, founder of hauspanther.com, an online magazine for design-conscious cat people.

A catio can be built in any home, no matter the size. While some people build large, elaborate ones, a small window enclosure also will work if you're short on space.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tips on building a catio**

- Make sure the catio is fully enclosed, so cats cannot get out and predators cannot get in.
- Provide a view of the outdoors, and make sure fresh air comes in.
- Include toys and features your cats enjoy.
- Keep their litter box in the catio.
- Make the space pleasant for humans too, so you and your cats can enjoy the catio together.

Carrie Fagerstrom built this catio, which cost $5,000 to add at her home, so her eight cats can enjoy the outdoors, but not the harmful elements that come along with it, in Portland, Ore. CARRIE FAGERSTROM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Fall for a gluten-free delicacy

**Cookbook of the Week**

## Bringing the sexy back to chocolate

The pros in the Canadian Living Test Kitchen have collected their best chocolate recipes in their book The Complete Chocolate Book.

Chapters focus on the varied, wonderful textures of chocolate treats. Craving an ooey-gooey caramel-topped cake? A dark, chewy brownie? A crispy, crunchy cookie? This book has you covered for all that and more. **METRO**

## Sweet Week. These Flourless Chocolate Lava Cakes are perfect for any Valentine

**1.** In heatproof bowl over hot (not boiling) water, melt chocolate with butter, stirring until smooth. Stir in vanilla seeds. Remove from heat.

**2.** Whisk in sugar. Whisk in eggs and egg yolks, 1 at a time. Whisk in cocoa powder and salt.

**3.** Pour into twelve 3/4-cup (175 ml) ramekins; place on rimmed baking sheet. (Make-ahead: Cover and refrigerate for up to 24 hours. Bake as directed, adding 5 minutes to baking time.)

**4.** Bake in 425 F (220 C) oven until edges are set and centres are slightly jiggly when lightly tapped, about 15 minutes. Let cool on pan on rack for 3 minutes. Run knife around edges and turn out onto plates. Garnish with strawberries, and whipped cream (if using).

**RECIPES EXCERPTED FROM CANADIAN LIVING: THE COMPLETE CHOCOLATE BOOK. COPYRIGHT © TRANSCONTINENTAL BOOKS, 2013. EXCERPTED BY PERMISSION OF TRANSCONTINENTAL BOOKS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS EXCERPT MAY BE REPRODUCED OR REPRINTED WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE PUBLISHER.**

**Ingredients**

- 12 oz (340 g) bittersweet chocolate or semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- Seeds of 1 vanilla pod
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 6 eggs
- 6 egg yolks
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder, sifted
- Pinch salt
- 12 oz (340 g) strawberries, hulled and diced
- Whipped cream (optional)

This recipe serves 12. JEFF COULSON

## Snack. Matzo Chocolate Almond Buttercrunch

This recipe makes 16 pieces. YVONNE DUIVENVOORDEN

**Ingredients**

- 4 1/2 sheets unsalted matzos
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 1/4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped toasted natural almonds
- Pinch sea salt or kosher salt

"Matzo is usually a side with a meal or a base for savoury dishes," write the the Canadian Living Test Kitchen pros in their book The Complete Chocolate Book. "Here, it's a confection."

**1.** Lay matzos on foil-lined rimmed baking sheet, breaking to cover sheet completely. Set aside.

**2.** In saucepan, bring butter and brown sugar to boil over medium-high heat; boil until slightly thickened, 2 to 3 minutes. Pour over matzos, spreading evenly with offset spatula.

**3.** Bake in 325 F (160 C) oven until bubbly and golden, about 7 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes.

**4.** Sprinkle with chocolate chips; let stand until melted, about 2 minutes. Using offset spatula, spread chocolate over matzos.

**5.** Sprinkle with almonds and salt. Refrigerate until chocolate is firm, about 1 hour. Break into shards.

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# Skater's sacrifice sets up Morrison's silver

**Speedskating.** Gilmore Junio drops out of 1,000 metres to make way for teammate

How about having Gilmore Junio carry the Canadian flag into the closing ceremonies of the Sochi Olympics, says Denny Morrison.

How about having both long-track speedskaters lead Canada into Fisht Stadium?

Morrison, taking the place vacated two days earlier by his friend and teammate Junio, raced to silver in the 1,000 metres between a pair of Dutch skaters Wednesday to write the final chapter to a remarkable story of selflessness and doing the right thing.

"It's a dream, a fairytale story," said an emotional Morrison after earning his third Olympic medal in three Games. "It's difficult to really believe that it's happening."

Said Junio: "I think that's the big power of the Olympics. Anything can happen. Expect the unexpected."

Having come back from a broken leg the year before, Morrison agonizingly clipped a skate on his heel at the Canadian trials in December, falling 50 metres from the finish line and failing to qualify for the 1,000 metres. There was a reskate an hour later at the trials, but his tank was empty and he missed out by four-hundredths of a second.

So the 28-year-old from Fort St. John, B.C., came to Sochi with a place in the 1,500 metres and team pursuit but as a reserve in one of his bread-and-butter distances.

Speed Skating Canada then approached Junio, a 23-year-old from Calgary who was 10th in Monday's 500 metres, and asked whether he would consider giving his place up to the veteran.

"It was 100 per cent my decision. They left it in my court," said Junio, who is better in the 500 than the 1,000. "They said 'You can talk to Denny.'

"But it was an easy decision. The guy's been skating unreal these past few weeks and I wanted to see him skate the 1,000 metres."

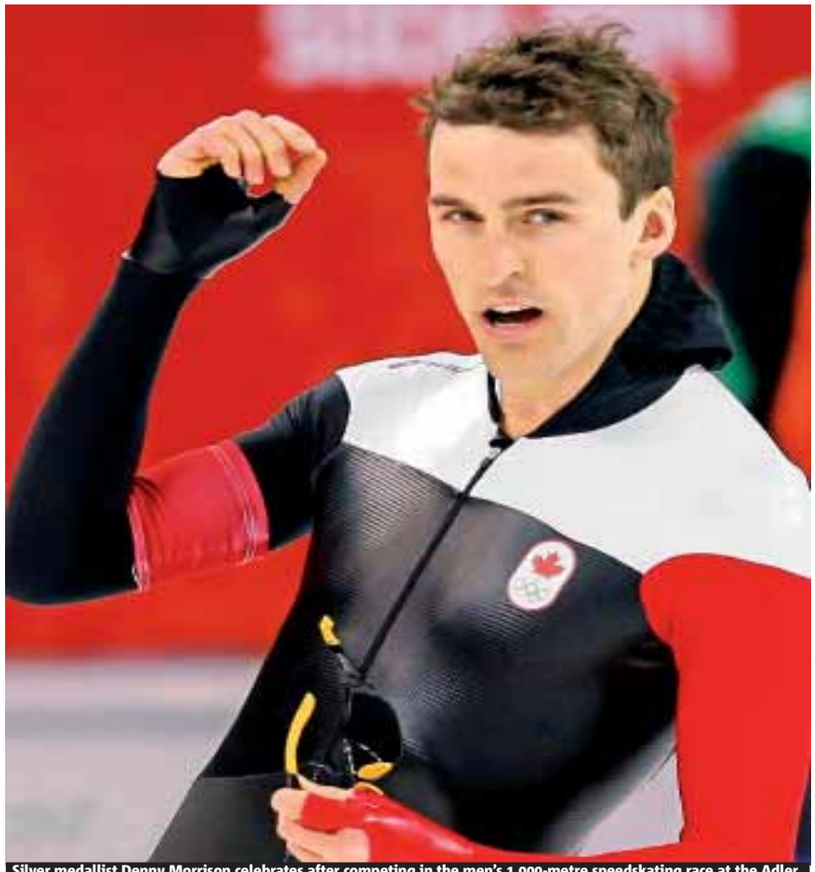
Junio also had his own reasons.

"I've a lot to learn in the 1,000 and I think the Olympics, representing Canada, isn't kind of the place to learn such lessons," he said. "We're here to perform. So I thought maybe in four years, hopefully my 500 will be good and my 1,000 will be even better, that I won't have to make this decision. Maybe someone will make it for me." THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Olympic spirit**

**"Maybe that's something we can get behind, because I think that would be really special.... He does embody what it means to be an Olympian ..."**

**Denny Morrison,** on the push to have Gilmore Junio as the closing ceremonies flag-bearer.



Silver medallist Denny Morrison celebrates after competing in the men's 1,000-metre speedskating race at the Adler Arena Skating Center in Sochi, Wednesday. PAVEL GOLOVKIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Canadians leave it all on the ice to finish in fifth

Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch compete in the pairs free skate figure skating competition at the Iceberg Skating Palace on Wednesday in Sochi. IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minutes after their program came to a smiling, giggling conclusion, Kirsten Moore-Towers of St. Catharines, Ont., and Toronto's Dylan Moscovitch were spontaneously committing to another four years.

"This is far too much fun," Moore-Towers said through a wide smile. "Yeah. Hell yeah. We say we're going to take it one year at a time, but why not, right? Dream big."

The Canadian skaters finished fifth Wednesday in pairs at the Sochi Olympics on a night Russia returned to its old ways, utterly dominating the discipline. Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov won the gold, while teammates Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov captured the silver.

**In the moment**

**"There was no forcing it, it just felt like a five-minute moment for us."**

**Toronto's Dylan Moscovitch**

Four-time world champions Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy of Germany had to settle for the bronze for the second straight Olympics.

Meagan Duhamel of Lively, Ont., and Eric Radford of Balmertown, Ont., dropped from fifth after the short program to finish seventh. Paige Lawrence of Kennedy, Sask., and Rudi Swiegers of Kipling, Sask., were 14th.

Skating to "Fellini Medley" and looking elegant in all black, Moore-Towers — her golden hair pulled back with a pale pink rose — and Moscovitch skated virtually flawlessly save for their side-by-side triple Salchows. He doubled his.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Natalie Spooner jumps on top of Meghan Agosta-Marciano of Team Canada after she scored the winning goal in the third period of Wednesday's victory over the United States in Sochi, Russia. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Canada wins first battle against U.S.

## Women's hockey.
## Agosta-Marciano's two goals lifts spirits of defending champions

Preliminary Round

| Canada | United States |
|---|---|
| 3 | 2 |

A 3-2 win over the archrival United States was a big boost to Canada's confidence, but history shows Wednesday's result won't mean much if the two women's hockey powers face off for Olympic gold.

But after dropping four straight exhibition games to the Americans before their arrival in Sochi, the Canadian women could feel good about themselves heading into a four-day break before Monday's semifinal.

Canada and the U.S. already had berths in Monday's semifinals locked down before their game.

Trailing 1-0 after two periods, Meghan Agosta-Marciano of Ruthven, Ont., scored a pair of goals and had an assist for the defending champions on her 27th birthday.

Linemate Hayley Wickenheiser of Shaunavon, Sask., who was Canada's flag-bearer in the opening ceremonies, scored a controversial goal and assisted on Agosta-Marciano's equalizer.

Charline Labonté of Boisbriand, Que., stopped 25 of 27 shots for the win and stoned Kelli Stack on a short-handed breakaway in the second period. Coach Kevin Dineen's choice to put Labonte in goal was intriguing because Shannon Szabados has started in all world championship finals for Canada since her shutout of the Americans in the 2010 Olympic final. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alpine skiing

## Maze, Gisin race to first ever tie

Slovenia's Tina Maze and Switzerland's Dominique Gisin took different paths on an Olympic downhill course filled with flats and turns, jumps and bumps.

Add it all up, and they were each other's equal Wednesday. Gisin finished in 1 minute, 41.57 seconds. Maze finished in 1 minute, 41.57 seconds. A tie. And so two gold medals were awarded, the first time that's happened in 78 years of Olympic alpine skiing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## MEDALS

| Nation | G | S | B | Tot. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Norway | 4 | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| **Canada** | **4** | **4** | **2** | **10** |
| Netherlands | 4 | 2 | 4 | 10 |
| United States of America | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| Russian Federation | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| Germany | 6 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Austria | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Switzerland | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Slovenia | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Sweden | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |

## WHAT CANADA DID

### WEDNESDAY

**ALPINE SKIING**

**Women's Downhill -** Larisa Yurkiw, Owen Sound, Ont., 20th, (one minute 43.46 seconds, +1.89 seconds)

**CURLING**

**Women's Round Robin Session 4 -** Canada 9 Britain 6 (Standings: Canada 3-0, T-1st)

**Men's Round Robin Session 5 -** Canada 7 Russia 4 (Standings: Canada 2-2, T-5th)

**FIGURE SKATING**

**Pairs Free Program -** Kirsten Moore-Towers (St. Catharines, Ont.) and Dylan Moscovitch (Toronto), 5th, (131.18); Meagan Duhamel (Lively, Ont.) and Eric Radford (Balmertown, Ont.), 7th, (127.32); Paige Lawrence (Kennedy, Sask.) and Rudi Swiegers (Kipling, Sask.), 14th, (103.01).

**Final Pairs Ranking:** Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch, 5th, (202.10); Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford, 7th, (199.53); Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers, 14th, (161.98).

**ICE HOCKEY**

**Women's Preliminary Round - Group A -** Canada 3 United States 2 (Standings: Canada 3-0, 1st)

**LUGE**

**Doubles Run 1 -** Tristan Walker (Cochrane, Alta.) and Justin Snith (Calgary), 4th, (49.857 seconds, +0.484 of a second)

**Doubles Run 2 -** Tristan Walker and Justin Snith, 6th, (49.983 seconds, +0.423 of a second)

**Doubles Final Ranking:** Tristan Walker and Justin Snith, 4th, (one minute 39.840 seconds, +0.907 of a second)

**SNOWBOARD**

**Ladies' Halfpipe Qualification - Heat 1:** x-Alexandra Duckworth, Kingsburg, N.S., 7th, (69.75); **Heat 2:** x-Katie Tsuyuki, Toronto, 9th, (54.25); Mercedes Nicoll, Whistler, B.C., 12th , (43.50).

**x- qualified for semifinals**

**Ladies' Halfpipe Semifinals -** Katie Tsuyuki, 7th, (56.25); Alexandra Duckworth, 11th, (32.50).

**Ladies' Halfpipe Final Ranking:** Katie Tsuyuki, 13th; Alexandra Duckworth, 17th; Mercedes Nicoll, 25th.

**SPEED SKATING**

**Men's 1000m -** Denny Morrison, Fort St. John, B.C., **Silver Medal**, (one minute 8.43 seconds, +0.04 of a second); Vincent De Haitre, Cumberland, Ont., 20th, (1:10.04); William Dutton, Humboldt, Sask., 26th, (1:10.61); Muncef Ouardi, Quebec City, 32nd, (1:11.07).

## HOCKEY

### PRELIMINARY ROUND

**All times Eastern**

**MEN**

**Wednesday's results**

Sweden 4 Czech Republic 2
Switzerland 1 Latvia 0

**Thursday's games**

Finland at Austria, 3 a.m.
Russia at Slovenia, 7:30 a.m.
Slovakia at United States, 7:30 a.m.
**Canada** at Norway, 12 p.m.

**WOMEN**

**Group A**

| | GP | W | OTW | OTL | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Canada** | **3** | **3** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **11** | **2** | **9** |
| United States | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 6 |
| Finland | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| Switzerland | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 1 |

**Group B**

| | GP | W | OTW | OTL | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sweden | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Russia | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| Japan | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Germany | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 0 |

**Note:** Three points awarded for a regulation win, two for an overtime/shootout win and one for an overtime/shootout loss.

**Wednesday's results**

Finland 4 Switzerland 3 (OT)
**Canada** 3 United States 2

**Tuesday's results**

Sweden 4 Germany 0
Russia 2 Japan 1

**Thursday's games**

Japan at Germany, 3 a.m.
Sweden at Russia, 12 p.m.

### CANADA 3, UNITED STATES 2

**First Period** — No Scoring.

**Penalties** — Lamoureux U.S. (tripping) 4:37, Ouellette Cda (holding) 10:59, Decker U.S. (Body Checking Minor) 17:47.

**Second Period**

1. United States, Knight 3 (Carpenter, Schleper) 37:34 (pp).

**Penalties** — Duggan U.S. (interference) 32:27, Johnston Cda (roughing) 32:52, Rougeau Cda (Body Checking Minor) 36:57.

**Third Period**

2. Canada, Agosta-Marciano 2 (Wickenheiser) 42:21 (pp).
3. Canada, Wickenheiser 2 (Spooner, Agosta-Marciano) 43:54.
4. Canada, Agosta-Marciano 3 (unassisted) 54:55.
5. United States, Schleper 1 (Decker, Lamoureux) 58:55.

**Penalties** — Decker U.S. (tripping) 40:53, Pucci U.S. (hooking) 51:59.

**Shots**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Canada | 8 | 11 | 12—31 |
| United States | 11 | 13 | 3—27 |

**Goal** — Canada: Labonte (W); United States: Vetter (L). **Power plays (goal-chances)** — Canada: 1-5; United States: 1-4.

**Attendance** — 4,812 at Sochi, Russia.

## CURLING

**All Times Eastern**

**MEN**

**Wednesday's results**

**Canada 7** Russia 4
United States 9 Denmark 5
Norway 8 Germany 5
China 5 Switzerland 4
China 11 Germany 7
Britain 4 Switzerland 2
Denmark 8 Sweden 5

**Thursday's games**

Switzerland vs. Russia, 5 a.m.
**Canada** vs. Denmark, 5 a.m.
Norway vs. Sweden, 5 a.m.
Britain vs. United States, 5 a.m.

**WOMEN**

**Wednesday's results**

**Canada 9** Britain 6
Japan 8 Russia 4
China 7 United States 4
Sweden 7 South Korea 4

**Thursday's games**

**Canada** vs. Denmark, 12 a.m.
China vs. Britain, 12 a.m.
Switzerland vs. Sweden, 12 a.m.
Sweden vs. Denmark, 10 a.m.
Russia vs. South Korea, 10 a.m.
Switzerland vs. **Canada**, 10 a.m.
Japan vs. United States, 10 a.m.

Kory Sheets

## Grey Cup MVP signs with Raiders

The Saskatchewan Roughriders have lost another key component of their potent offence to a retooling National Football League team.

Star tailback and Grey Cup MVP Kory Sheets has signed with the Oakland Raiders, the team confirmed Wednesday on Twitter.

Sheets is the second Riders star to leave this offseason for a chance to crack an NFL roster, following receiver Weston Dressler's departure to sign with the Kansas City Chiefs.

The signing comes as no surprise to keen CFL observers, as both Sheets and Dressler made it clear shortly following the Riders' Grey Cup triumph in November that they had their eyes set on the NFL.

METRO

CFL

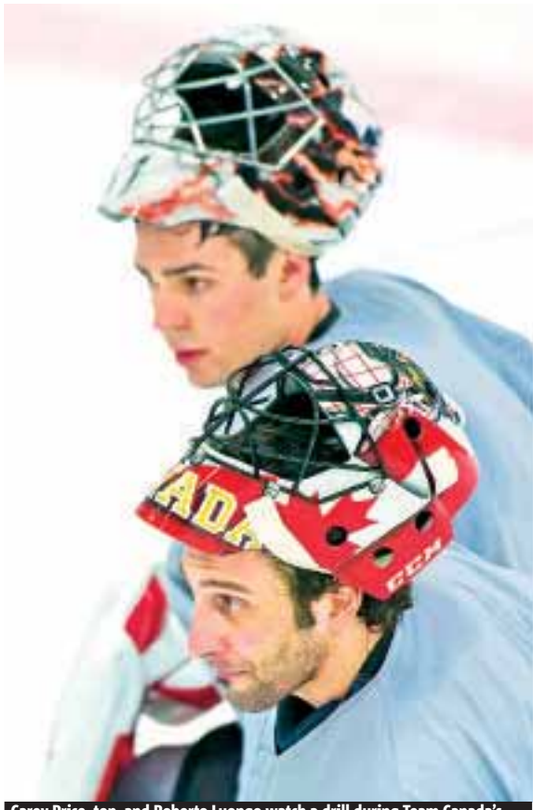
## Riders host Ticats to start season

The Grey Cup defence will begin against some angry felines.

The CFL unveiled its 2014 schedule Wednesday and the Saskatchewan Roughriders will open the regular season as hosts to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in a Grey Cup rematch June 29.

Meanwhile, the regular season will kick off days before that with the Toronto Argonauts visiting the Winnipeg Blue Bombers on June 26.

The expansion Ottawa Redblacks will play their first-ever regular-season game in Winnipeg against on July 3. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Carey Price, top, and Roberto Luongo watch a drill during Team Canada's practice in Sochi, Russia, on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Price gets nod over Luongo to begin gold medal defence

**Men's hockey.** Habs goalie to start for Canada vs. Norway

Even though Roberto Luongo finished the Olympics four years ago, he won't start Team Canada's run at defending that gold medal.

Coach Mike Babcock chose to split the goaltending duties out of the gate in Sochi so it will be Carey Price facing Norway in Canada's opener on Thursday while Luongo will play Friday against Austria.

Babcock delivered the news to the goaltenders on Wednesday, roughly 36 hours before puck drop of the Norway game. Babcock didn't give a rationale for why he went with this order.

"I was going to play one of them in (each of) the first two games," Babcock said. "If I had put Luongo in, you'd be asking me the same question."

Recent performance certainly seemed to give Price the edge. In his past six NHL games for the Montreal Canadiens, Price is 4-1-1 with two shutouts, a 1.15 goals-against average and .967 save percentage.

Luongo is 1-5-0 with a 3.55 GAA and .880 save percentage in his past six for the Vancouver Canucks. He appeared to accept Babcock's decision.

"We're all here to play for Team Canada, man," Luongo said.

"It's not about one player. We're all pulling the same rope. It's a team game right now. It's not about Roberto Luongo or Carey Price or Mike Smith. It's about being part of Team Canada. It doesn't matter what role you are given, you have to embrace it and accept it."

It wasn't immediately clear whether Price and Luongo would dress for both games, or if Smith would get a turn. Babcock also didn't reveal if he has decided on a starter for Sunday's game against Finland.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Swedes top Czechs**

**Erik Karlsson scored two goals to help Sweden win its first game of the tournament, a 4-2 final over the Czech Republic on Wednesday.**

# Women's curling. Jones benefits from risky shot played by Brits

A missed gamble by British skip Eve Muirhead allowed Canada's Jennifer Jones to remain unbeaten in women's curling round-robin play at the Sochi Olympics.

With the clock running down and her team behind 8-6 to Canada at the women's Olympic tournament, Muirhead could have played an easy draw to the button with her last stone to take a tense game to an extra end at 8-8.

Jennifer Jones calls a shot during her match against Britain on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Instead, she gambled on removing three tightly bunched Canadian rocks to pick up three points for the win. The move backfired, and Canada clinched a 9-6 victory to stay unbeaten in three round-robin games.

"It was a gamble but … that's the skip," Muirhead said.

"They get the glory when they make them or the slack if they miss them."

Jones said she "probably would have thrown the draw to go to the extra end."

"It was a tough triple to get everything to spin out," Jones said, "but I guess she makes them a lot."

Canada, which earlier recorded wins over China and Sweden, will play twice on Thursday, against Denmark followed by Switzerland.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The team of Tristan Walker and Justin Snith from Canada compete in the men's doubles luge on Wednesday. NATACHA PISARENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Monkey still clinging to Canadian lugers' backs

Canada's Tristan Walker and Justin Snith know all too well just how cruel the sport of luge can be at times.

They were a whisker away from becoming the first Canadians to win an Olympic luge medal Wednesday night, coming just five-100ths of a second short of a podium appearance at the Sochi Games.

Their sixth career fourth-place finish hurt a little more because it was such a slim margin — faster than a blink of an eye. But it's that cruelty that keeps the 22-year-old Canadians focused and determined.

"I think that's why I do it, because every once in a while it happens the other way around," Walker said. "We know we're capable of doing that.

"We're capable of sliding with the best in the world, we proved it tonight."

Walker, from Cochrane, Alta., and Snith, from Calgary, had two strong runs at the Sanki Sliding Centre and were sitting third overall when the final duo came down the track.

Tobias Wendl and Tobias Arlt of Germany posted the fastest time of the second run to move into top spot and knock the Canadians to fourth. Austrian brothers Andreas and Wolfgang Linger won silver and Latvia's Andris and Juris Sics took bronze.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## Horoscopes

### ♈ Aries
**March 21 - April 20**
You need to be a bit more mysterious, especially on the work front. Keep both colleagues and rivals at arm's length and don't forget that knowledge is power.

### ♉ Taurus
**April 21 - May 21**
If you say one thing but do another, you leave yourself open to charges of hypocrisy. You don't need to cut corners or bend the truth. You have so much going for you that you will still come out ahead.

### ♊ Gemini
**May 22 - June 21**
As your ruler, Mercury, continues its retrograde phase, you need to be on your guard. It's likely that someone will try to cheat you in some way. But now that you know that, it won't be so easy.

### ♋ Cancer
**June 22 - July 23**
Your mind may be working fast and you may have come to conclusions that satisfy you but are you sure they're correct? Listen to your inner voice and act on what it tells you, even if you don't understand it.

### ♌ Leo
**July 24 - Aug. 23**
One of your secrets could be dangerous if others get to know about it. Make sure you don't say anything today that might give your opponents a clue what you've been up to.

### ♍ Virgo
**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**
It's important that you are honest about your feelings. If you keep them to yourself, negative emotions may build up to the point where an outburst of some sort is more likely than not.

### ♎ Libra
**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**
Be careful what you say over the next few days because certain people won't take kindly to you making light of things that they take seriously.

### ♏ Scorpio
**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**
There is still time to make your feelings known. But if you leave it too late in the day, the opportunity will slip by and it won't come again for quite a while. Don't worry that you might be rejected.

### ♐ Sagittarius
**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**
You'll get more done if you take a gentler approach to partnership matters. Put yourself in their shoes and imagine how you'd feel if someone talked to you the way you talk to them at times.

### ♑ Capricorn
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**
You may want to be open but with communications planet Mercury now moving retrograde, you would be wise not to give too much away. Anyone asking personal questions is not to be trusted.

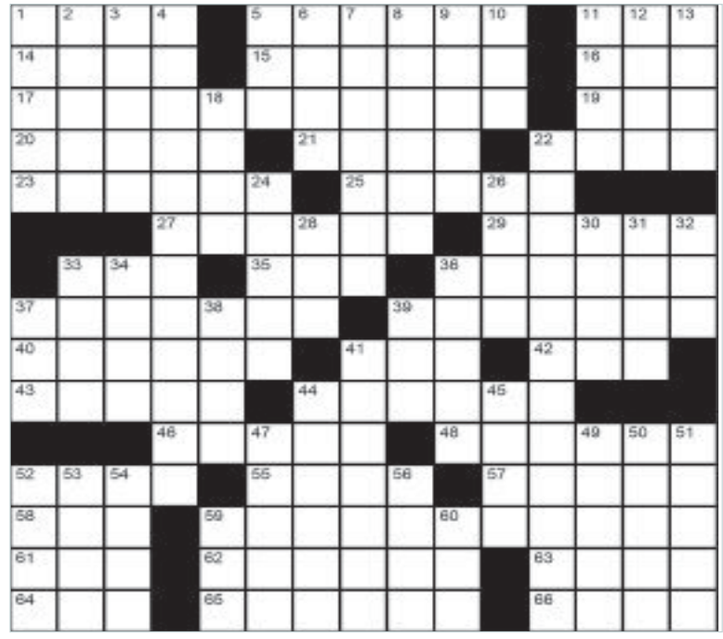
### ♒ Aquarius
**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**
If you need to make some extra money then you will have to go into partnership with someone who shares your ambitions. You will also need to have a contract that commits you both.

### ♓ Pisces
**Feb. 20 - March 20**
You may not be as ambitious as some but you have no end of dreams you would like to see come true. One dream has your attention now, but is it a realistic dream or is it a fantasy dream? SALLY BROMPTON

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

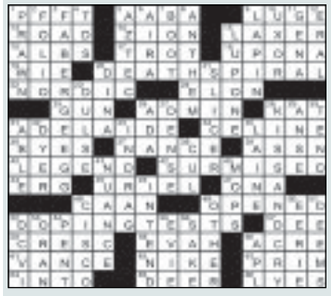
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**Across**
1. Very, in Versailles
5. Lightly blots: 2 wds.
11. Stir
14. Retro-style pop syllable
15. "Game of Thrones" actress Ms. Clarke
16. Cut back
17 "Roxy Roller" band from Vancouver: 2 wds.
19. Litigate
20. France's capital, colloquially
21. __ Brasi, "The Godfather" (1972) enforcer
22. Cob's stuff
23. "Man of Steel" (2013) director, Zack __
25. Lord's house
27. Swiped
29.Jabbed
33. 'Neat' suffix
35. Food container
36. U2 tune
37. Anastasia's family, House of __
39. Historic theatre in Russia
40. Sam Worthington movie
41. Oz musical, The __
42. Initials-sharers of Miranda's portrayer on "Sex and the City"
43. "__ __, with Love" (1967)
44. Roman orator
46. Man-made material
48. Wanting to throw up feeling
52. SOCHI 2014 - One of the Olympic symbol's five
55. Banff National Park animals
57. Trims
58. Fabric belt
59. Robin Thicke's actress wife: 2 wds.
61. Guys
62. Actor, Haley Joel __
63. Rihanna's "__ Boy"
64. Lumberjack's tool
65. Styles
66. River of Flanders

**Down**
1. Chef's li'l amounts
2. "Laugh-In" co-host Dan
3. Manicurist's board
4. SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport: 2 wds.
5. Billy Williams link
6. __ acetate (Banana oil)
7. Tar-like deposit found in Alberta's oil sands
8. BC's __ Valley
9. Mr. Quinn
10. Bit
11. Too
12. Glum
13. Airy
18. Old depilatory brand
22. SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport
24. Revolving mechanism
26. German-built car
28. Ms. Tyler
30. "Jeopardy": 1983 hit for The Greg __ Band
31. Greek Myth: God of love
32. Agnus __ (Mass prayer)
33. De __ (Again, in Latin)
34. "Misty" line: "Look at me / __ __ helpless as a kitten up a tree..."
36. Bakery quantity
37. Rodent
38. __ a soul
39. Pen brand
41. City in southern Manitoba's Pembina Valley
44. Structure support in architecture
45. Tabula __ (Clean slate)
47. Rent
49. Position, fancy-style
50. Lyric poem variety
51. Lou Grant's portrayer Ed
52. Tomato type
53. Wild goat
54. Ten - One = This
56. Rational
59. 1990s fad game disc
60. Liq. measures

## Yesterday's Crossword



## Sudoku

**How to play**
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

## Yesterday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 1 |

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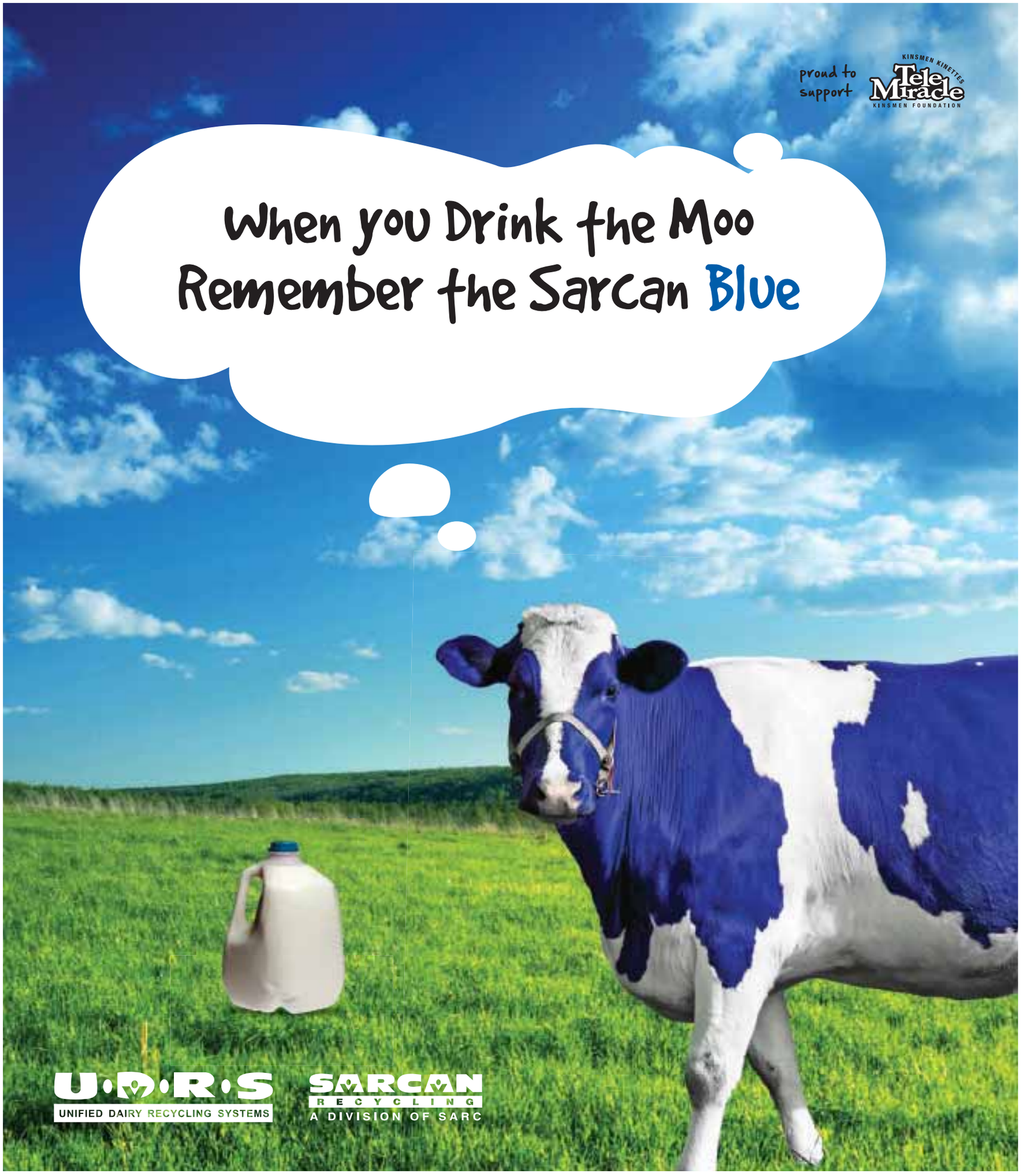
to sell soap & bath products in
Market Mall, 2325 Preston Ave, Saskatoon.
$13.20/Hr Plus bonus & commission.
Beauty certification required.
Email : soapskbto@gmail.com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